

CLAIMS

1. A method for providing media packets to users, the end users coupled to a communication network having a communication network protocol, the method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving non-addressable media packets;
 - blocking media packets of non-selected media streams;
 - converting non-addressable media packets of selected media streams to addressable media packets complying with transmission parameters and with specifications of the communication network protocol; and
 - routing the addressable media packets in response to selection signals received from the users.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein transmission parameters reflect an available bandwidth for transmitting addressable media packets to users.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein transmission parameters reflect an available processing capacity of the users.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of converting comprises compressing media packets in response to transmission parameters.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of routing comprises allowing multicast transmission of the media packets.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the specifications of the communication network protocol define a format of the media packets.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the communication network protocol is selected from a group of protocols consisting of: TCP/IP, and UDP/IP.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving comprising the steps of receiving RF signals representative of media packets and down-converting the RF signals to base band signals.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of down-converting is followed by a step of de-modulating the base band signals.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of converting comprises at least one step selected from the group consisting of: multiplexing; re-multiplexing; rate adaptation; PID re-stamping; PCR re-stamping; and updating system information embedded in transport streams.
11. The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of processing the addressable media packets to display visual content embedded within the addressable media packets.
12. The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving addressable packets and routing the addressable packets in response to routing information embedded within the addressable packets.
13. A method for displaying audio visual content to end-users, the method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving media stream packets from a cable communication network;
 - converting the received media stream packets to local area network compliant packets; and
 - providing the local area network compliant packets to users coupled to the local area network in response to selection signals received from the users.
14. The method of claim 13 further comprising a step of receiving data packets from a non-cable communication network and providing the data packets to the users.

15. The method of claim 13 further comprising a step of processing the local area network compliant packets to display visual content embedded within the local area network compliant packets.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein the step of converting comprises adjusting the received media stream packets to comply with transmission parameters.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein transmission parameters reflect an available bandwidth for transmitting addressable media packets to users.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein transmission parameters reflect an available processing capacity of the users.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein the step of converting comprises compressing media packets in response to transmission parameters.

20. The method of claim 13 wherein the step of converting comprises at least one step selected from the group consisting of: multiplexing; re-multiplexing; rate adaptation; PID re-stamping; PCR re-stamping; and updating system information embedded in transport streams.

21. A system for providing media packets to users, the system comprising:
a receiver array for converting RF signals representative of media packets to non-addressable media packets; and
a broadband multimedia router, coupled between the receiver array and a communication network having a communication network protocol, for selectively converting non-addressable media packets of selected media streams to addressable media packets complying with transmission parameters and with specifications of the communication network protocol, wherein the addressable

media packets are to be routed over the communication network in response to selection signals received from the users.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein transmission parameters reflect an available bandwidth for transmitting addressable media packets to users.

23. The system of claim 21 wherein transmission parameters reflect an available processing capacity of the users.

24. The system of claim 21 wherein the broadband multimedia router is operable to compress media packets in response to transmission parameters.

25. The system of claim 21 wherein the addressable media packets are multicast over the communication network.

26. The system of claim 21 wherein the specifications of the communication network protocol define a format of the media packets.

27. The system of claim 21 wherein the communication network protocol is selected from a group of protocols consisting of: TCP/IP, and UDP/IP.

28. The system of claim 21 wherein the broadband multimedia router is operable to implement at least one step selected from the group consisting of: multiplexing; re-multiplexing; rate adaptation; PID re-stamping; PCR re-stamping; and updating system information embedded in transport streams.